



Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer

**Outbreak Response/Epidemiology
Influenza Weekly Report
Arkansas 2017-2018**

Week Ending Saturday 01/06/2018

Dirk Haselow, MD, PhD

State Epidemiologist, Medical Director, Outbreak Response

Shirley Louie, MS, CIH

Deputy State Epidemiologist, Director, Center for Public Health Practice

Prepared by:

Haytham Safi, MD, MPH

Influenza Surveillance Coordinator

Haytham.Safi@Arkansas.gov

501-661-2920

Quinyatta Mumford, MPH, CHES

Mike Cima, PhD

Public Health Preparedness Epidemiologists

During the flu season the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) produces a Weekly Influenza Report for clinicians. The report provides information on flu activity in the state. The report also compares influenza like illness (ILI) in Arkansas to activity in the U.S. ADH receives reports of only a fraction of flu cases. Therefore, it is important to understand that the information in the weekly update is representative of the timing and location of activity, but it does not reflect the overall burden of disease. It is presumed that there are many more people actually affected than the report shows. Clinicians and policy makers may find the report helpful in terms of communicating to colleagues and patients about the current status of the flu season.

Report Key Points:

- For Week 1, Arkansas reported “Widespread” activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for geographic spread of influenza, and “High” or 10/10 for ILI intensity.
- Since October 1, 2017, over 18,000 positive influenza tests have been reported to the ADH online database by health care providers. In Week 1, 73 counties reported influenza cases. The majority of reports came from Benton, Pulaski, Faulkner, Washington, Craighead, White, Saline, Garland, Jefferson, Sebastian, Pope, Lonoke, Independence, and Baxter.
- Among flu antigen tests that can distinguish between influenza A and B virus types, 76 percent were influenza A, and 24 percent were influenza B.
- There were 283 positive PCR flu tests last week from private labs: 222 influenza A, and 59 influenza B; 1 positive influenza A subtype H3N2 and 1 positive influenza A subtype H1N1. There were 4 positive influenza A subtype H3N2, and 4 positive influenza B subtype Yamagata from the ADH lab; 2 samples tested negative for influenza this week.
- About 6.5 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms last week were there for ILI. About 8.9 percent of outpatient visits were for ILI.
- The average school absenteeism rate last week was 8.7 percent among public schools.
- To date, 36 influenza-related deaths have been reported in Arkansas this flu season among adult persons. No pediatric death has been reported in Arkansas this flu season.
- Since October 1, 2017, 34 facilities including 27 nursing homes have reported influenza outbreaks.
- The proportion of deaths reported to the National Center for Health Statistics attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold.
- For Week 52, the geographic spread of influenza was reported as widespread in 46 states, 4 states reported regional activity, the District of Columbia reported local activity; and Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.
- You can report flu year-round and view the weekly influenza report during the influenza season at: <http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/influenza>.
You can also access the reporting website directly at: <https://FluReport.ADH.Arkansas.gov>

For Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information:

World Health Organization (WHO): http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html.

CDC - Seasonal Influenza (Flu) - Weekly Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

2017-2018 Influenza CD/Epi Weekly Report (Week 1: 12/31/17 - 01/06/18)

Death Report for Week 1

- Deaths from all causes: 614
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 71
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 3
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 5

Cumulative Flu Deaths since 10/01/2017

- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 3
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 27
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 36

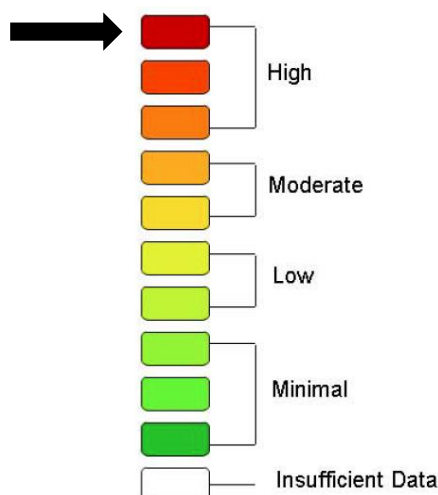
ER Visits

- Week Ending: 01/06/2018**
Weighted Average: 6.5%
– Total Visits: 22,624
– Visits with ILI: 1,479
- Previous Week**
Weighted Average: 6.8%
– Total Visits: 23,483
– Visits with ILI: 1,594

Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions

- PCR Confirmed:**
– Cumulative: 273
– Week ending 01/06/2018: 57
- Antigen Positive:**
– Cumulative: 648
– Week ending 01/06/2018: 97

Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level Reported by Sentinel Providers



PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza

- Total Cases since 10/01/2017: 1,557
- Week Ending 01/06/2018: 291

PCR Tests	ADH Lab Week 1	Other Labs Week 1	Cumulative Cases Since 10/01/2017
A+	0	222	1,133
B+	0	59	284
B/Victoria	0	0	0
B/ Yamagata	4	0	6
H1N1+	0	1	11
H3+	4	1	114
Unsubtypeable	0	0	5
Total	8	283	1,557
Negative	2	--	--

PCR Confirmed Influenza Cases since 10/01/2017

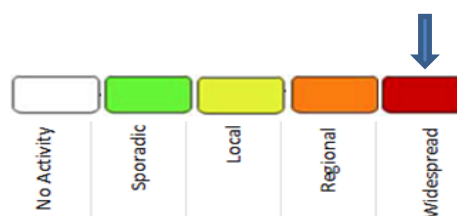
Age Groups	PCR+	Hospitalized	Deaths
0-4 yr.	136	15	0
5-18 yr.	419	19	0
19-24 yr.	91	5	0
25-44 yr.	205	8	0
45-64 yr.	291	64	1
>= 65 yr.	414	162	8
Unknown	1	0	0
Total	1,557	273	9

School Absenteeism*

Week Ending: 01/06/2018
 - Percent Absent: 8.7
 - Previous Week: Holiday

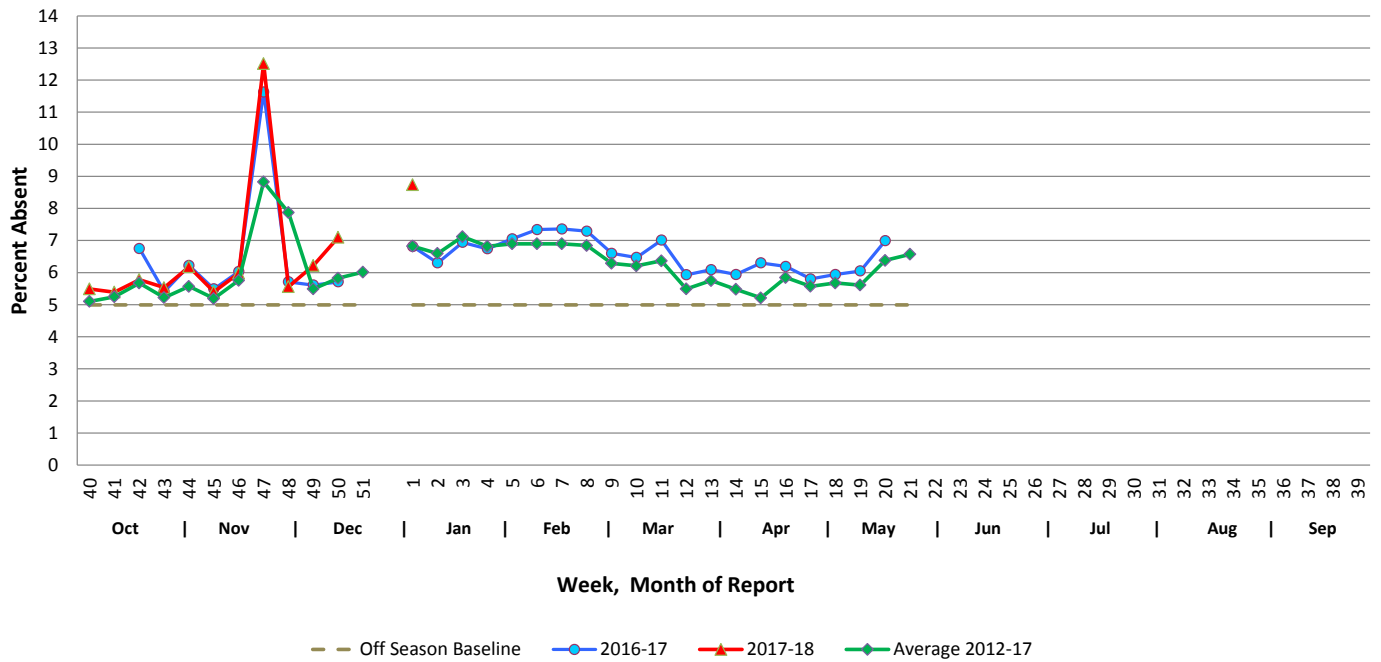
* Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 1:



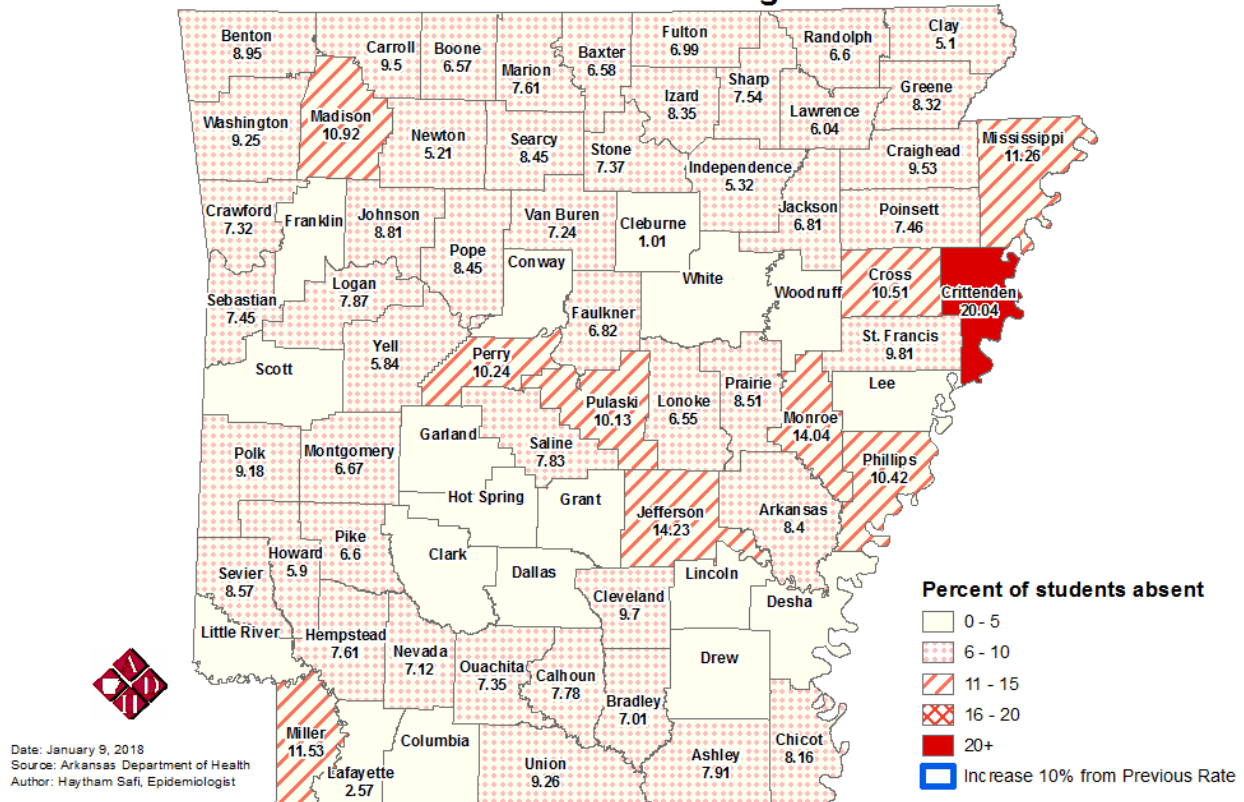
School Report

Weekly School Absenteeism Rates, Arkansas Public Schools



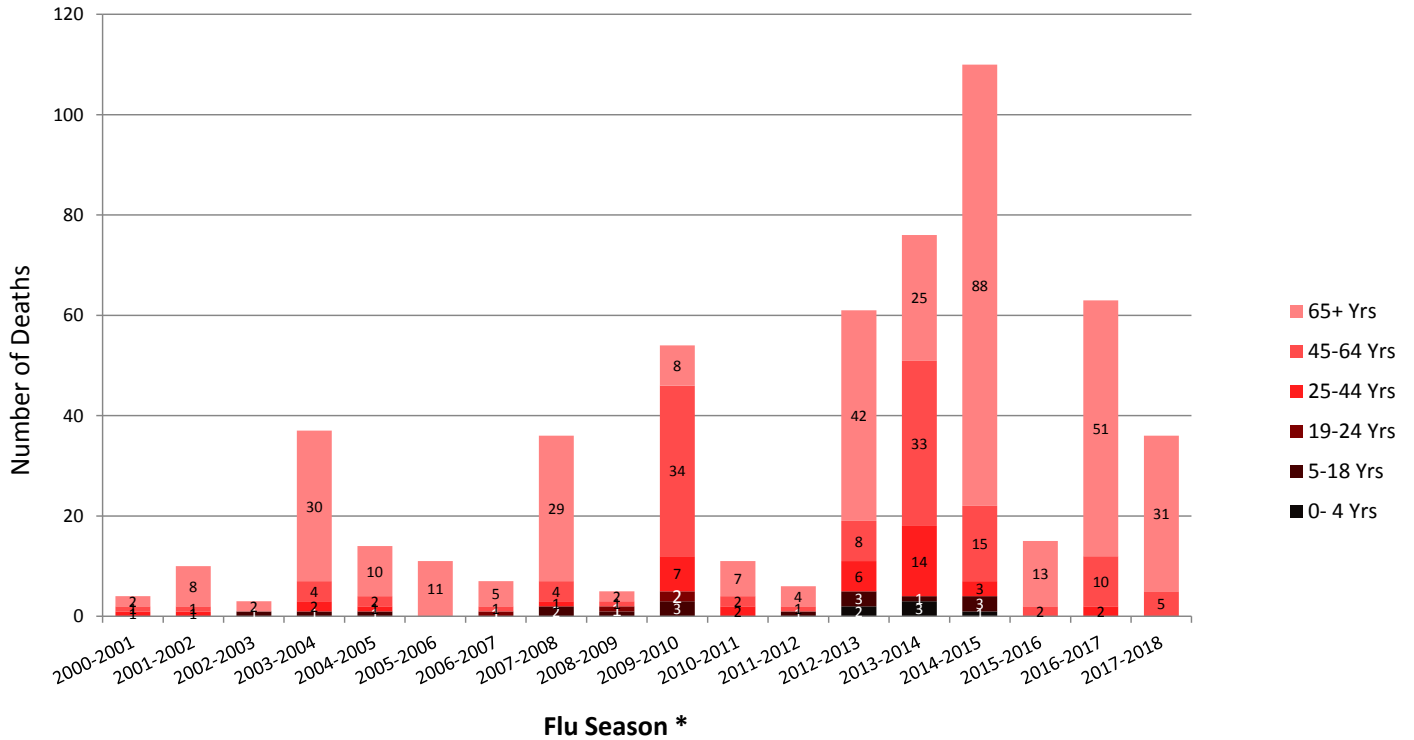
School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2017-2018

Percent Absent for Week Ending 1/6/2018



Influenza Mortality by Age Group, Arkansas 2000-2017 (Provisional)

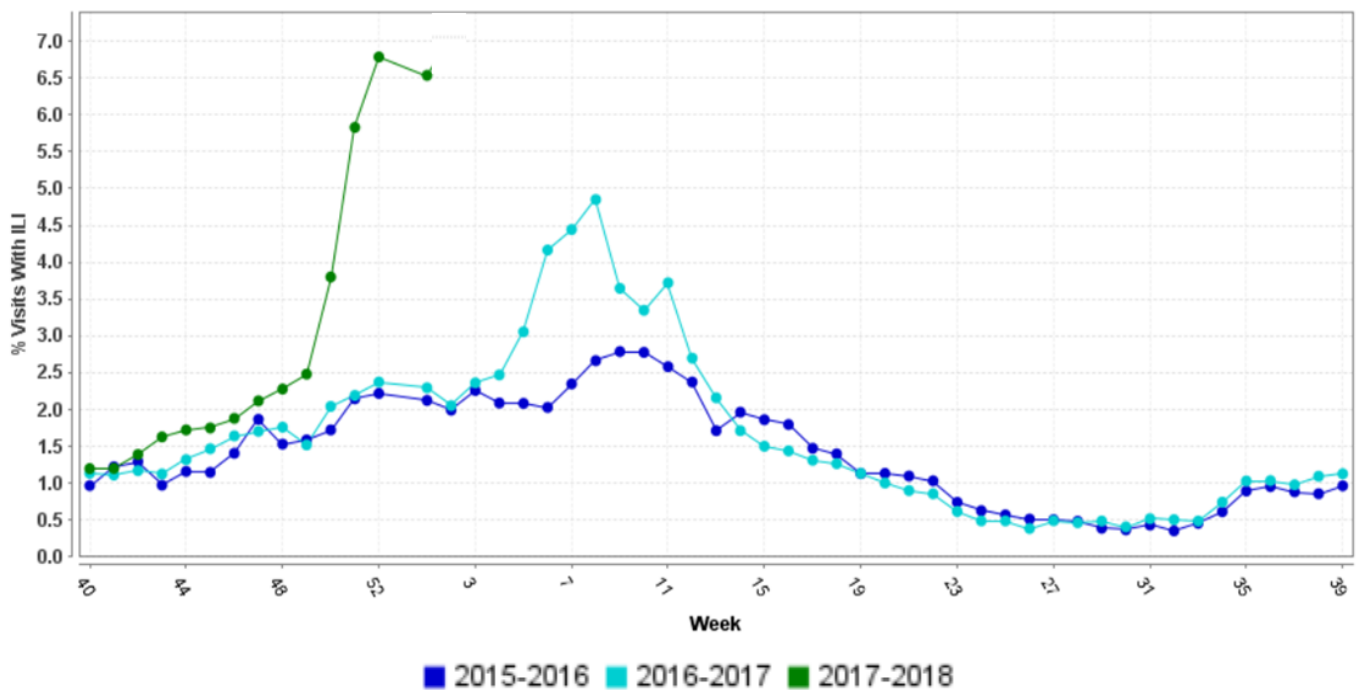
Report Updated: 01/09/2018



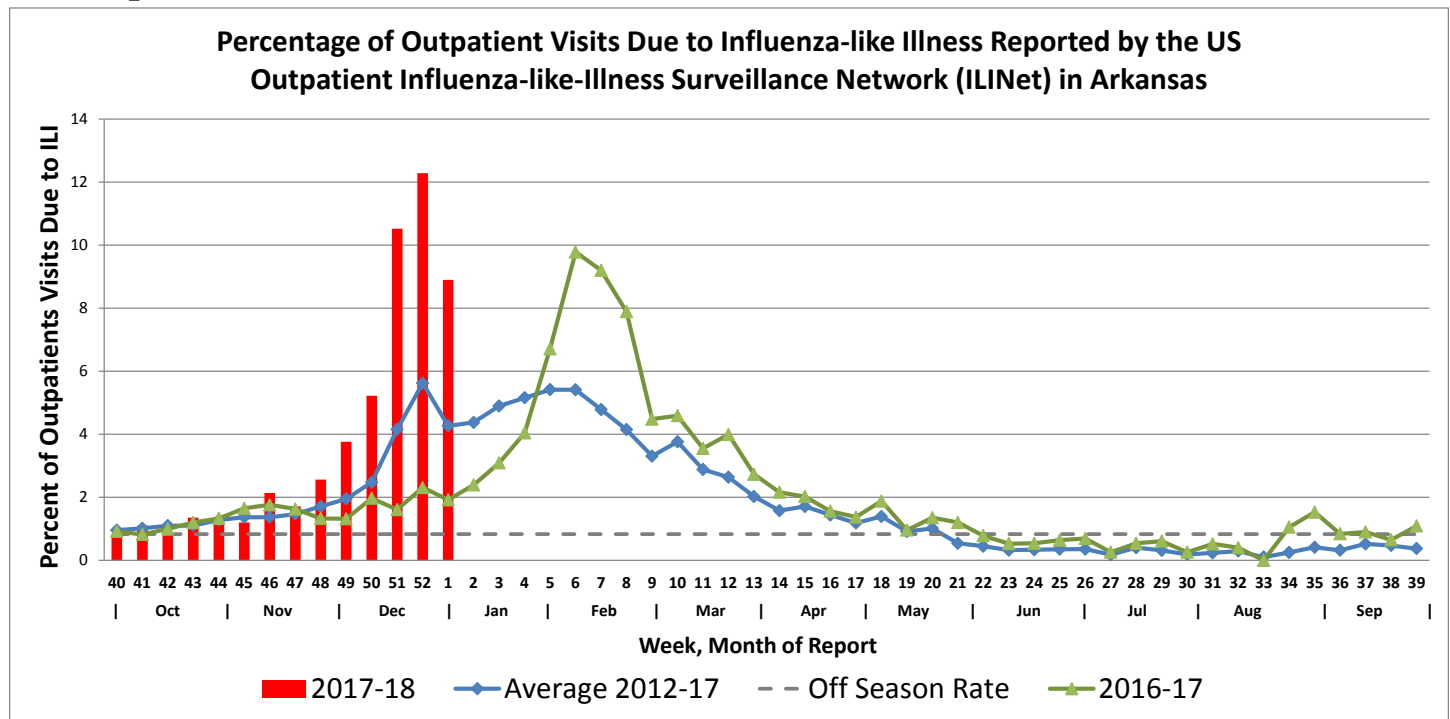
* All seasons range from week 40 to week 39 except 2009-2010 started week 36
Source: ADH Immunization Section, Center for Health Statistics

Hospital Report – Downloaded from ESSENCE (Syndromic Surveillance)

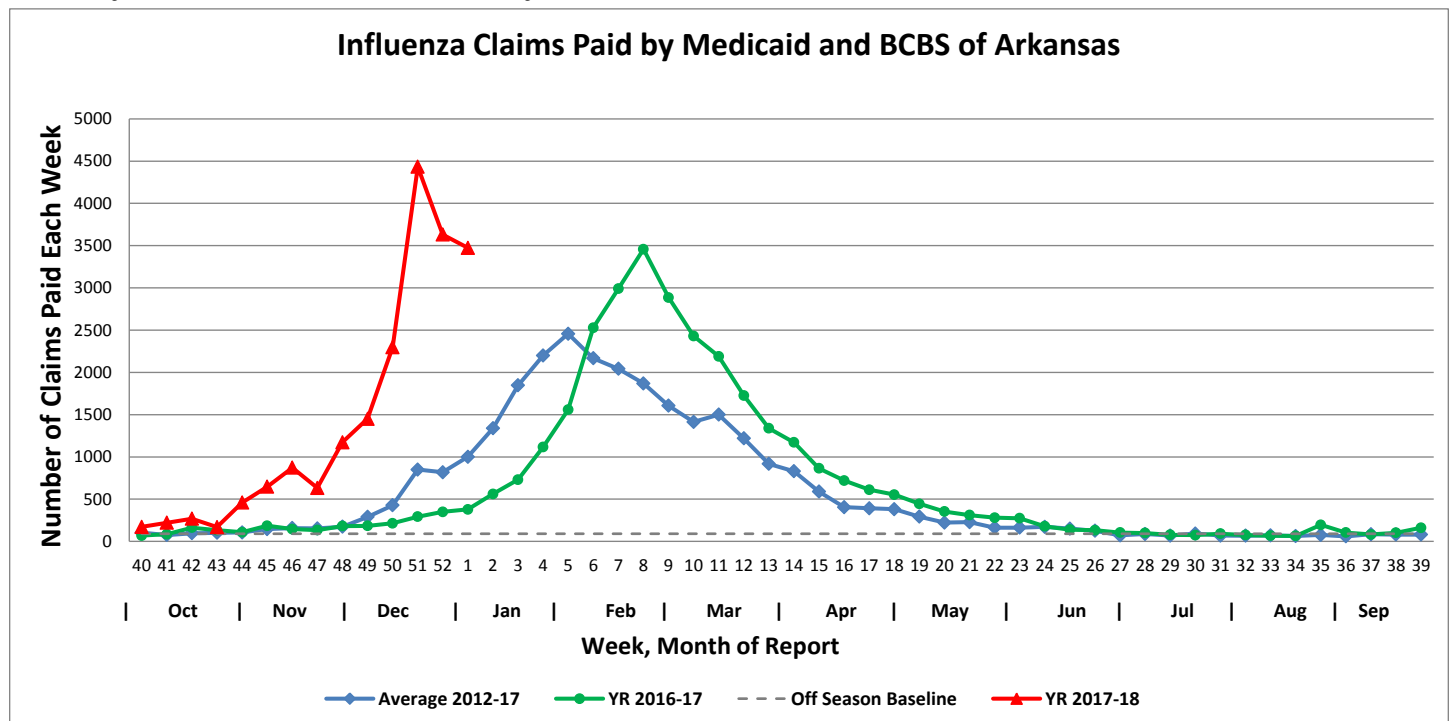
Percent ER Visits with ILI



US Outpatients Influenza Surveillance (ILINET)

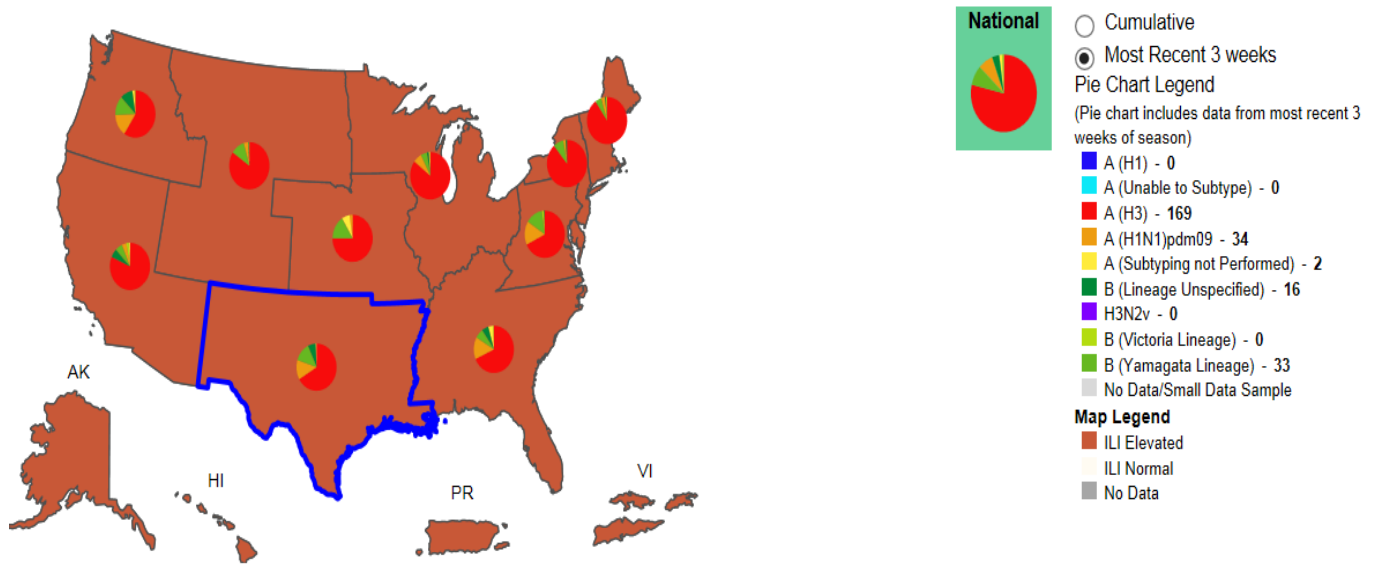


Weekly Influenza Claims Paid by Medicaid and BCBS

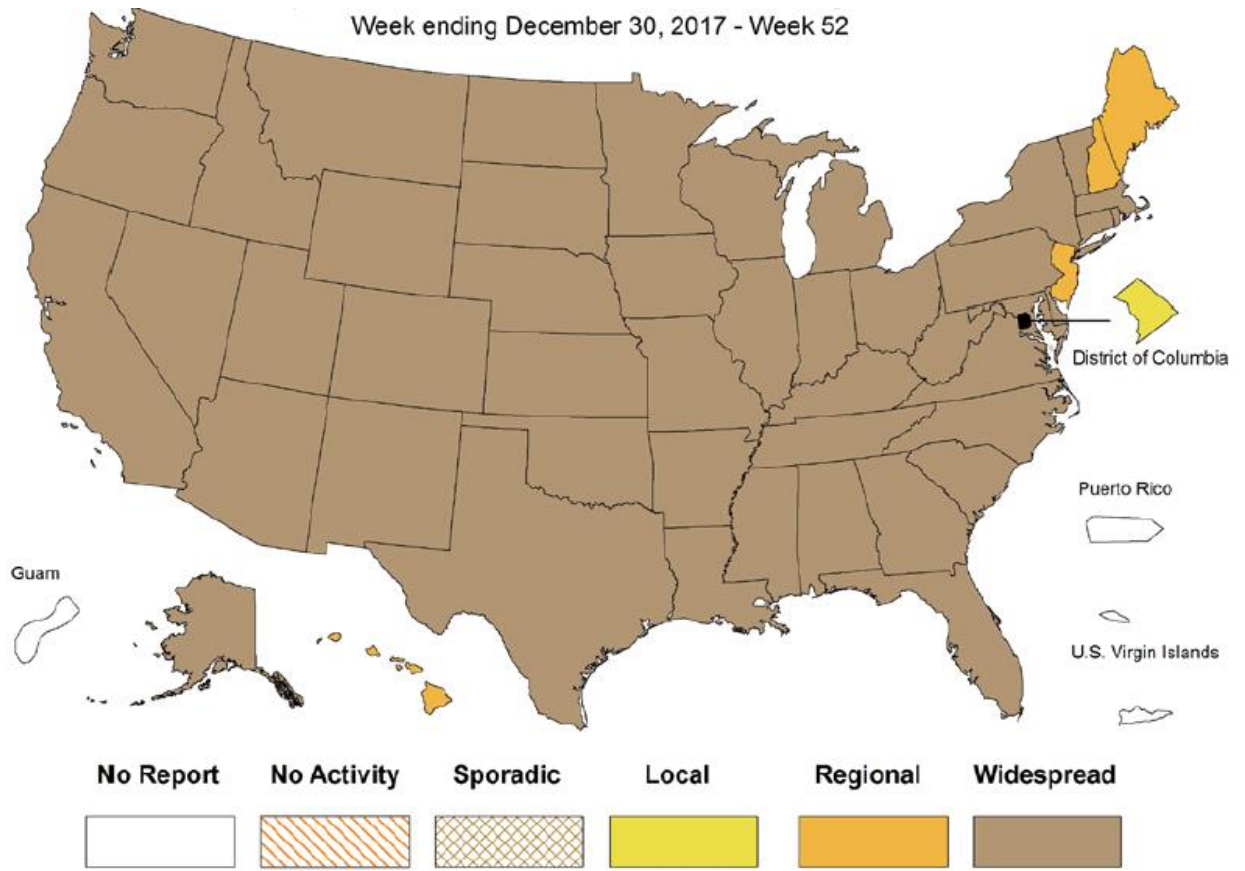


Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region, 2017-2018 Season, Week Ending December 30, 2017

Values in legend is for the highlighted HHS region (Region 6)

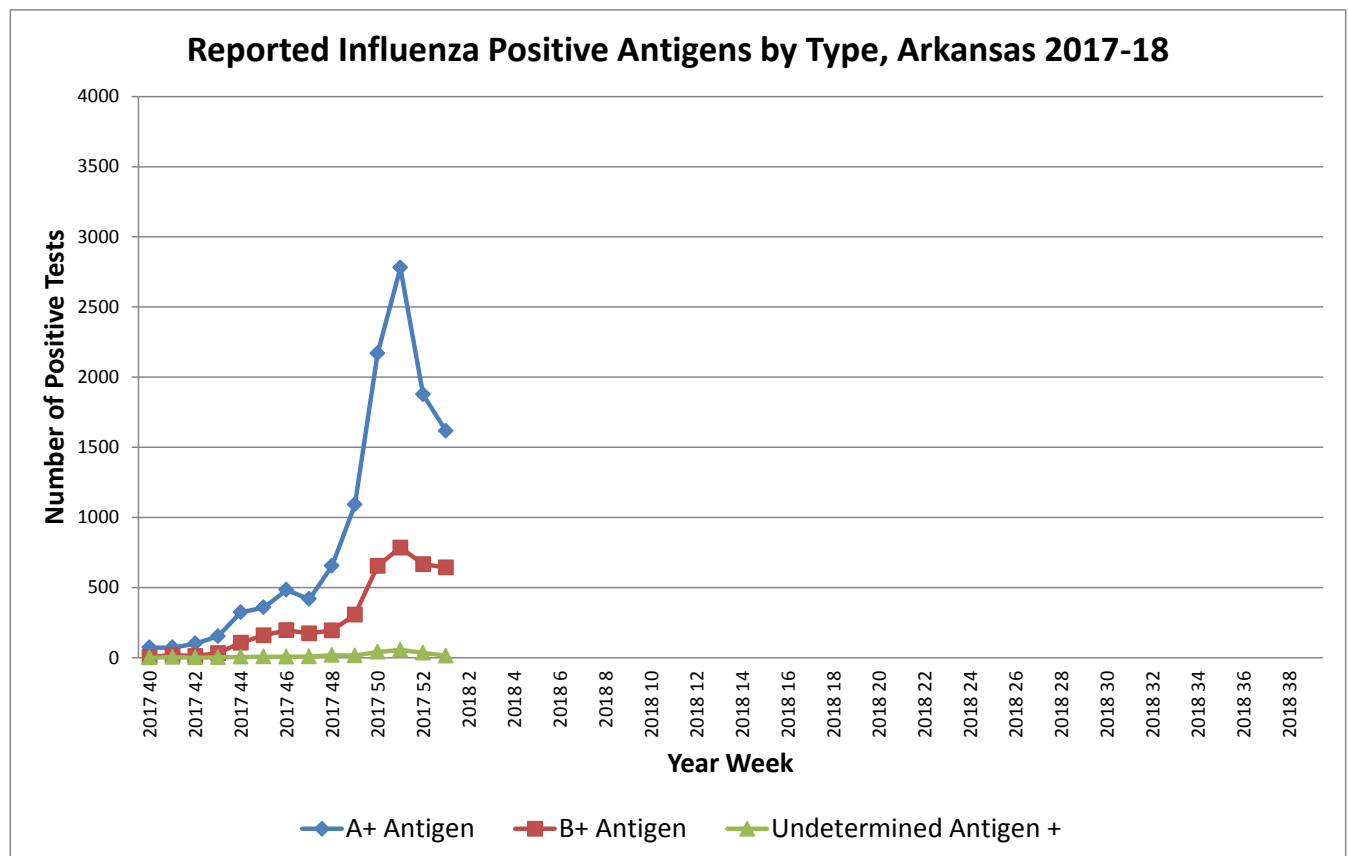
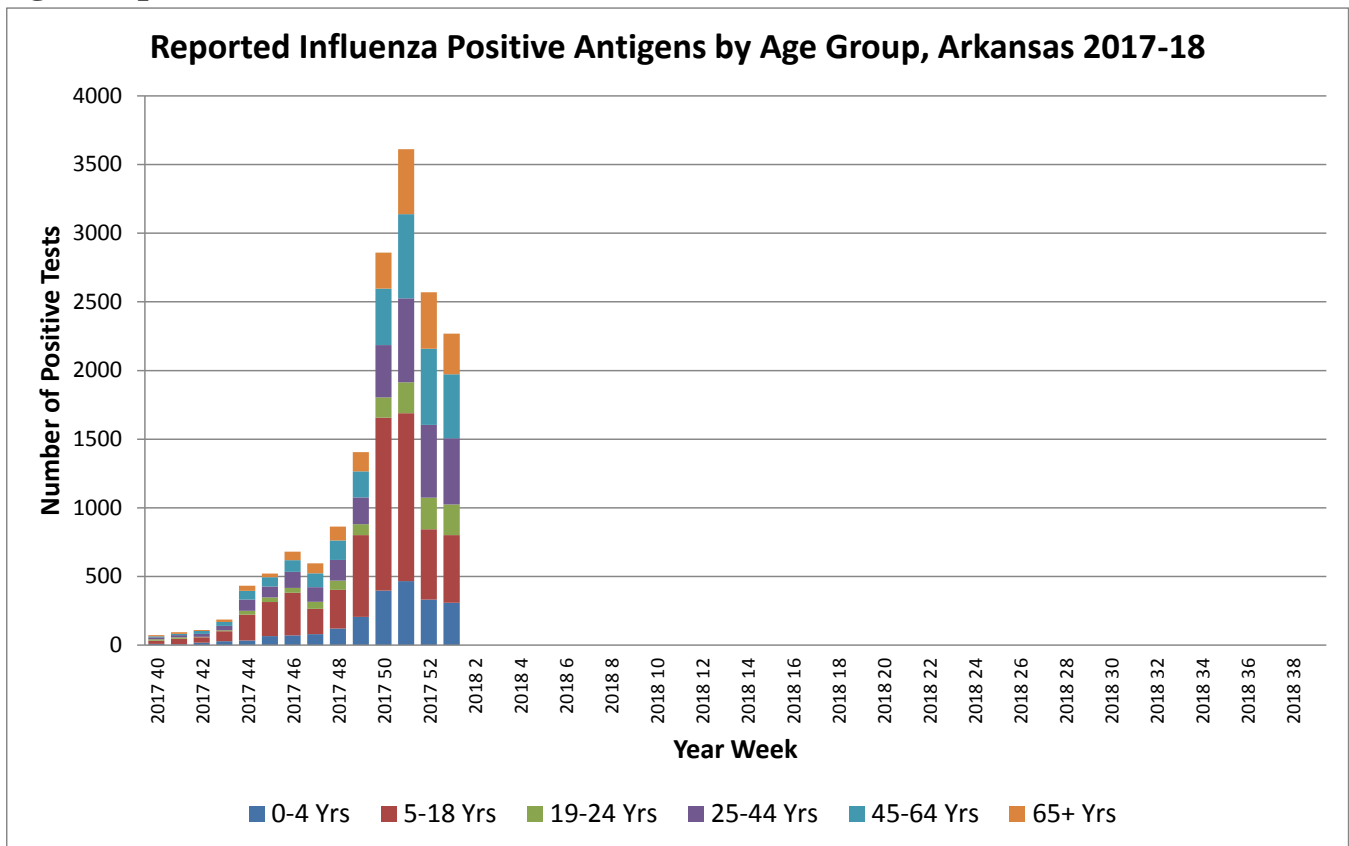


Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

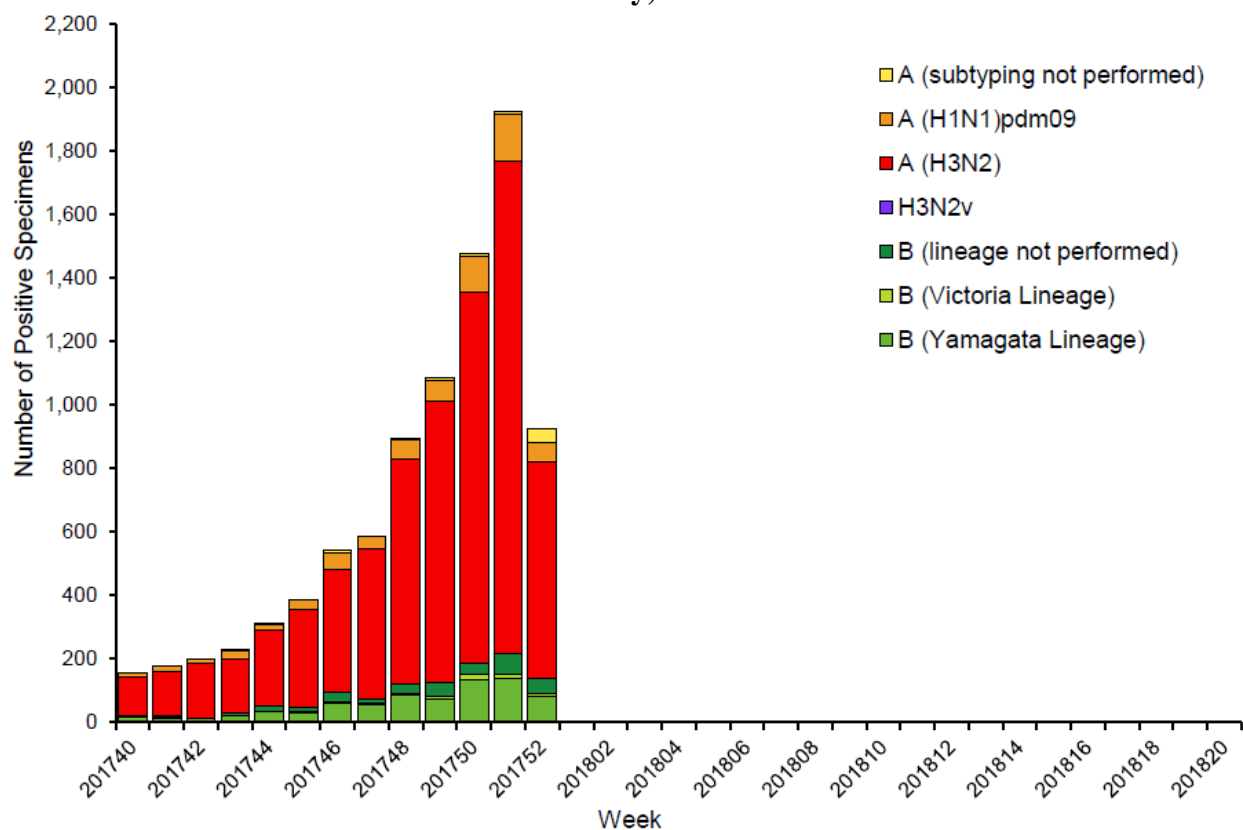


Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week 1: Widespread

Antigen Report:



Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, 2017-18 Season



Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality from the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Surveillance System Data through the week ending December 16, 2017, as of January 4, 2018

